

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LIFE OF PAUL

PAUL'S BACKGROUND. (Acts 22:3-4) *a Jew

- *born in Tarsus of Cilicia
- *brought up in Jerusalem
- *trained under Gamaliel
- *persecuted Christians to their death

PAUL'S CONVERSION (Acts 22:5-21)

- *initiated by Jesus "
- *miraculous intervention
- *guidance by Ananias .~
- *commissioned to tell his story to all men
- *baptized ,; "
- *began to proclaim that Jesus was the Christ (Acts 8:19b-22)
- *was the target of an assassination plot (Acts 8:23-24)
- *returned to Jerusalem
- *rejected by the Jerusalem Christians (Acts 8:26)
- *accepted by Barnabas (Acts 8:27) .
- *proclaimed that Jesus was the Christ in Jerusalem (Acts 8:28)
- *was the target of an assassination plot in Jerusalem (Acts 8:29)
- *sent to the Gentiles
- *commissioned with Barnabas by the prophets and teachers in Antioch (Acts 13:1-3) *began his first evangelistic journey (Acts 13:4)
- *apparently became the leader of the expedition (Acts 13:13)

SOME LESSONS FROM PAUL

- *Paul remained faithful regardless of circumstances (Philippians 1 :21; 4: 11)
For to me, *to live is Christ and to die is gain*...I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.
- *Paul saw the world in light of Jesus' commission, not his own life" (Philippians 1 :12-14)
Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly .
- *Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1: 16)
I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
- *Paul had,"a realistic view "of himself (Romans 7: 14-25) .
We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it... but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is good, *but* I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; *no* the evil I do not want to do--;this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do,;it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the flesh a slave to the law of sin.